

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer..

Claims 1 and 4 - 6 have been amended as follows:

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1. (Amended) A seal assembly comprising:  
a pair of seal rings (1) and (1) individually comprising lip portions (23) and (23) disposed such that each of said lip portions (23) and (23) protrudes in an axial direction opposing the protruding direction of the other lip portion;  
a load seal ring (2) compressed and inserted between said seal rings (1) and (1), said load seal ring (2) exerting reaction forces on said lip portions (23) and (23) outwardly in the axial direction; and  
an inner-diameter controller body (33), in contact with said load seal ring, for controlling the displacement of said load seal ring (2) in a periphery inner direction.

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4. (Amended) A seal assembly comprising:  
a pair of seal rings (1) and (1) which is individually comprised of lip portions (23) and (23) disposed such that each of said lip portions (23) and (23) protrudes in a direction opposing an axial direction; and

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35 a load seal ring (2) compressed and inserted between said seal rings (1) and (1), said load seal ring (2) exerting reaction forces on said lip portions (23) and (23) outwardly in the axial direction, wherein

one of the said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises said outer-diameter controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load seal ring (2) in the periphery outer direction, and the other one of said seal rings (1) and (1) comprises said inner-diameter controller body (32) for controlling the displacement of said load ring (2) in the periphery inner direction.

5. (Amended) The seal assembly as defined in one of claims 1, 2, and 4, wherein said load seal ring (2) comprises a circumferential groove (27) that tolerates axial-direction compression.

6. (Twice Amended) The seal assembly as defined in one of claims 1, 2 and 4, wherein a cross section of said assembly is symmetric with respect to a radial-direction line passing the center thereof.

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